

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report: Puerto Rico 2010 Swimming Season

May 2011

Introduction

The BEACH Act of 2000 requires that coastal and Great Lakes states and territories report to EPA on beach monitoring and notification data for their coastal recreation waters. The BEACH Act defines coastal recreation waters as the Great Lakes and coastal waters (including coastal estuaries) that states, territories, and authorized tribes officially recognize or designate for swimming, bathing, surfing, or similar activities in the water.

This fact sheet summarizes beach monitoring and notification data submitted to EPA by the territory of Puerto Rico for the 2010 swimming season.

Figure 1. Puerto Rico.



Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches for 2010.

| Municipalities | Total Beaches | Monitored | Not Monitored |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| AGUADA | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| AGUADILLA | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| ANASCO | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| ARROYO | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| CABO ROJO | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| CAROLINA | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| CULEBRA | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| DORADO | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| FAJARDO | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| GUANICA | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| HUMACAO | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| LUQUILLO | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| PATILLAS | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| RINCON | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| SAN JUAN | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| TOA BAJA | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| VEGA ALTA | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| VEGA BAJA | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 22 | 22 | 0 |



2010 Summary Results

How many beaches had notification actions?

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Puerto Rico requires beach managers to post an advisory or closure. An advisory warns people that there is an increased health risk associated with entering the water and a closure warns people to completely avoid contact with the water. A total of 14 out of 22 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2010 swimming season. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification actions.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

In 2010, about 4 percent of Puerto Rico's total beach days were under an advisory (Figure 3).

How do 2010 results compare to previous years?

Table 2 compares 2010 notification action data with monitored beach data from previous years.

What pollution sources possibly affect investigated monitored beaches?

Figure 4 displays the percentage of Puerto Rico's investigated beaches possibly affected by various pollution sources.

For More Information

For general information about beaches:
www.epa.gov/beaches/

For information about beaches in Puerto Rico:
www.prtc.net/~jcaagua/monitoria.html

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

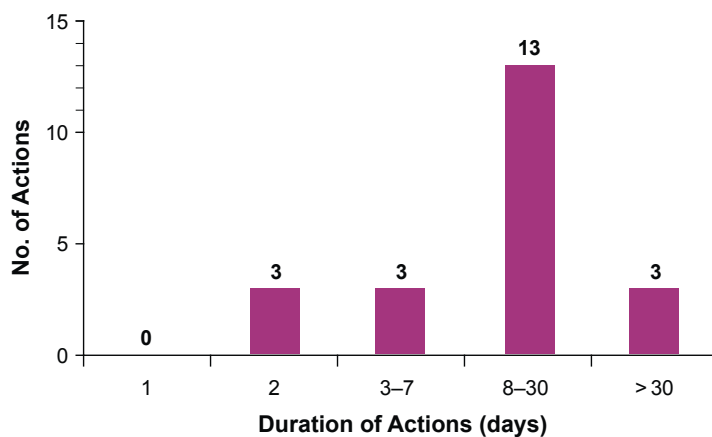


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

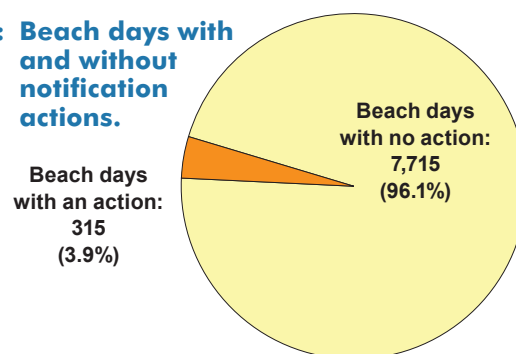


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008-2010.

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Number of monitored beaches | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| Number of beaches affected by notification actions | 11 | 15 | 14 |
| Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions | 50% | 68% | 64% |
| Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions | 2% | 5% | 4% |

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (27 beaches).

